

Reflections of Life
Joe Louis Downs



Sunrise:
March 21, 1939

Sunset:
January 23, 2004

Services Held
Thursday, January 29, 2004
11:00 am
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
662 So. 52nd Street
Richmond, California
Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Obituary

Joe Louis Downs was born March 21, 1939 in Woodruff, South Carolina to Fannie Van Downs-Harper and Alzie Coleman, both of whom preceded him in death. He was the youngest of three children born to this union.

Joe attended public schools in Woodruff, South Carolina. He graduated from New Bethel High School in May 1956 and was Valedictorian of his class.

Joe accepted Christ at an early age and united with New Bethel Baptist Church in Woodruff. Joe also united with St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond, California prior to departing this life.

Joe enlisted in the United States Navy in 1956. He served 12 years and received many commendations and medals during his military career. He was discharged in 1968.

In July 1965, he was united in marriage to Pearl Robinson. To that union two children were born, Joe II and Stayci.

Joe was a faithful and loving husband, father, brother and friend. He was a very caring person who enjoyed helping others. Joe was employed with B.A.R.T. for 30 years from 1974 to January 9, 2004 when he retired.

On Friday, January 23, 2004, Joe answered the call of his heavenly father and went home to be with the Lord.

Joe leaves to cherish his precious memories:

His loving wife, Pearl Downs, of El Sobrante, CA; loving sisters, Billie Anne Betsill of NJ and Marva Russell of SC; devoted children, Joe Downs II of Richmond, CA and Stayci Downs of El Sobrante, CA; goddaughter Dana Warner of El Sobrante, CA; mother-in-law and father-in-law Mattie and Abram Bartie of Oakland, CA; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Leon and Rose Brooks of Richmond, CA, John Robinson of Oakland, CA and Lonnie and Tama Payton of San Pablo, CA. And a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Joe's life speaks for itself in that he touched so many other lives in a positive way. He will truly be missed...

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....

Processional.....

Scripture.....Old Testament: Elder Romel Jackson

New Testament: Min. Alvin Armstrong

Prayer.....Rev. Julian Spencer

Choir.....

Acknowledgments.....Sis. H. M. Murphy

Expressions.....Two Minutes Please

Choir.....

Obituary.....Read Silently

Words of Comfort.....Dr. Kevin B. Hall

Parting View.....

Recessional.....

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Park

Richmond, California

Active Pallbearers

Bro. Lamb Smith
Bro. Manual Galavese
Bro. Don Wells
Bro. Donnie Davis
Bro. James Jackson
Bro. Bob Smith

Honorary Pallbearers

Bro. Leon Brooks
Bro. Joe Downs II
Bro. John Robinson
Bro. Richard Banks
Bro. Jim Matthews
Bro. Lonnie Payton

The Angels Came

No more grief or sorrow,
No more suffering or pain,
Now there is everlasting peace
Because the angels came.
Only God knows what is best
And He gently holds my hand
guiding me to a better place
Because the angels came.
While the sun rises tomorrow
And I answer not my name,
Please don't cry...rejoice with me
Because the angels came.
I now can rest in peace
As I never could before.
I answered the gentle knock
Of the angels at my door.
So please don't mourn for me
As new things I now claim.
I can take flight to heaven
Because the angels came.

Acknowledgment

Perhaps you made a comforting call or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a card or dish of food; If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much.
Whatever the part, may God bless you. - The Family

Arrangements entrusted to

STEWART'S



Rose Manor Funeral Service

Lydia Stewart • 3331 MacDonald Avenue • Richmond, California • (510) 235-9143